

Strategic Design: Distill Core Domain Selection

Project: Professional Portfolio

Objective

Identify the most value-adding part of the model and emphasize it as the core domain. Classify supporting and generic subdomains with rationale and provide at least one visual.

Core Domain

Interest → Match → Connection Orchestration

This core captures the high-signal path that transforms reciprocal interest into a durable, auditable communication channel. It spans swipe/interest capture, mutual-like detection, match creation, and immediate connection establishment.

Why this is core:

- Disproportionate impact on outcomes: match rate, time-to-conversation, and funnel throughput.
- Differentiates the product: rules for mutual-interest detection, throttling, and safety gates define user trust and speed.
- Cross-cuts other features: messaging, scheduling, and notifications rely on valid matches and connections.

Scope boundaries:

- Includes: swipe/interest logging, mutual-like detection, match validity guards, connection creation, and initial chat open.
- Excludes: UI animations, third-party auth, generic messaging transport, and unrelated infrastructure concerns.

Supporting Subdomains

- **Candidate Profile & Portfolio:** Enables quick, credible evaluation via profile completeness and portfolio artifacts. Fuels discovery and matching quality.
- **Recruiter Discovery & Search:** Filters/shortlists candidates by skills, interests, and availability; must be fast and precise to feed the core.

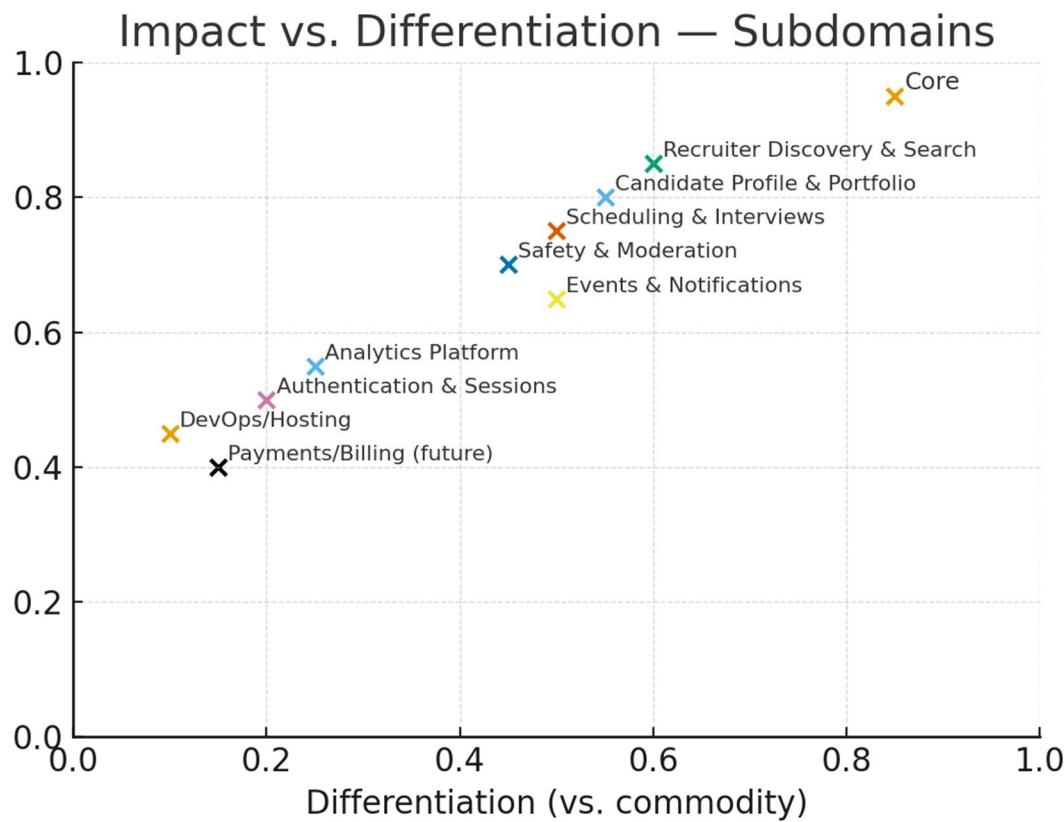
- **Events & Notifications:** Drives timely actions (RSVPs, reminders, match alerts). Policy engine respects quiet hours and roles.
- **Safety & Moderation:** Report/block, consent gates, and guardrails that protect the core conversation and trust.
- **Scheduling & Interviews:** Books interviews only on valid matches; prevents double-booking; records outcomes.

Generic Subdomains

- **Authentication & Sessions:** Provider-agnostic session management; necessary but not differentiating.
- **DevOps/Hosting:** Cloud infrastructure, monitoring, and scaling; critical but commoditized.
- **Analytics Platform:** Data pipelines and dashboards; leverage standard tooling.
- **Payments/Billing (future):** Potential monetization; generic patterns and providers available.

Visual: Impact vs. Differentiation

The chart below guides investment toward the high-impact/high-differentiation core while keeping commodity areas lean.



Classification Table (DR)

Subdomain	Type	Primary Rationale
Interest -> Match -> Connection Orchestration	Core	Highest impact and differentiation; gate to all downstream value.
Candidate Profile & Portfolio	Supporting	Enables quick, credible evaluation via profile completeness and portfolio artifacts. Fuels discovery and matching quality.
Recruiter Discovery & Search	Supporting	Filters/shortlists candidates by skills, interests, and availability; must be fast and precise to feed the core.
Events & Notifications	Supporting	Drives timely actions (RSVPs, reminders, match alerts). Policy engine respects quiet hours and roles.
Safety & Moderation	Supporting	Report/block, consent gates, and guardrails that protect the core conversation and trust.
Scheduling & Interviews	Supporting	Books interviews only on valid matches; prevents double-booking; records outcomes.
Authentication & Sessions	Generic	Provider-agnostic session management; necessary but not differentiating.
DevOps/Hosting	Generic	Cloud infrastructure, monitoring, and scaling; critical but commoditized.
Analytics Platform	Generic	Data pipelines and dashboards; leverage

		standard tooling.
Payments/Billing (future)	Generic	Potential monetization; generic patterns and providers available.

Traceability to Requirements

Core domain aligns with DR013–DR016 (interest, match creation, withdrawals), DR018–DR019 (interviews & messaging on valid matches), and IR005–IR010 (match notifications and swipe recording). Supporting domains map to DR001–DR012 and DR020–DR029, and related IR/MR entries.

Focus & Risks

Focus next 2 sprints on:

- Hardening mutual-like detection and connection establishment rules.
- Policy engine for notifications (quiet hours, role-aware deep links).
- Safety gates (block/report, consent) in the match -> chat transition.

Key risks and mitigations:

- False-positive matches -> add guards and audit logs (DR014, DR027).
- Latency at match time -> precompute indices and keep algorithms OCP-compliant.
- Policy violations on notifications -> encode rules as tests (gherkin) and enforce at service boundary.